

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Epiphany of Our Lord • January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ✠

**Worship Notes:** • Our Lector is Cheryl Behymer • Our Crucifer is Amy Kehl • Our Banner Bearer is Ken Custer • Our worship assistant is Connie Hinson • Our guest preacher this week is Brandy Schneck •

**PRELUDE:** The Old Year Has Passed Away J.S. Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please stand as able and face the back of the church.*  
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**


Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✠ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 303** *Brightest And Best Of The Stars*  
*MORNING STAR*


**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**


**KYRIE: ELW p.213**



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *Please be seated.*

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

*Psalm Sung Responsively*



- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**  
<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** ELW p.216

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -  
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

*Please stand as able.*

*Before the Reading:* The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.”**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him

homage.”<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*After the Reading:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

Brandy Schneck

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 302

As with Gladness Men of Old  
*DIX*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*Please stand as able.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes “*God of grace.*” We respond: “**Receive our prayer.**”

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

*The offering plate will be passed throughout the Congregation for those not using online giving.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** ELW 299

Cold December Flies Away  
*EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 641**

All Are Welcome  
TWO OAKS

#### **DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **POSTLUDE:**

The Old Year Has Passed Away

Johann Walther

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall*

**Our Ministry Staff contacts are:**

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com  
Dr. Patrick Hawkins; Dir. of Music & Organist.....music@incarnationlutheran.com  
Kimi Dail; Faith Formation Coordinator.....youth@incarnationlutheran.com  
Teresa Boykin; CDC Director.....cdc@incarnationlutheran.com  
Bonnie McDaniel; Parish Administrator.....office@incarnationlutheran.com

**Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.**

(10 a.m. Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

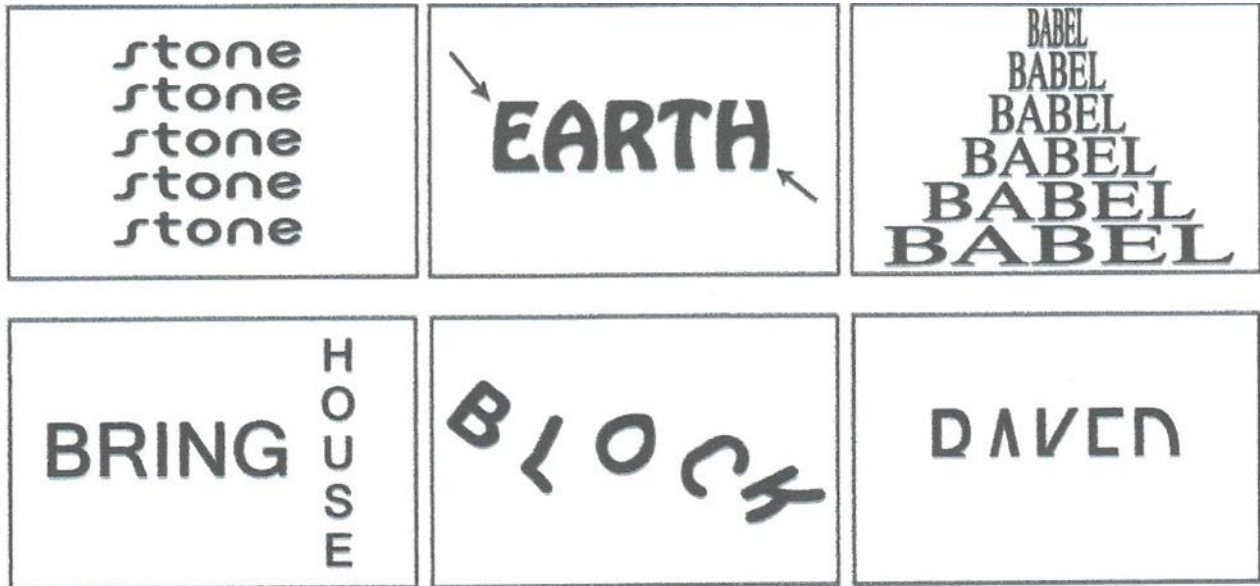
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[www.incarnationlutheran.com](http://www.incarnationlutheran.com)

[www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/IncarnationLutheranChurch)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:00 am

Nursey (Ages 3 and under): 9:45-11:15

Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm M-F

3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205 • (803) 256-2381

## Prayer List

**Current Concerns:** The family of Warren Powell, The Smyer family, Theresa Yaussy, Ken Gehler, Carroll Eargle, Luzie Arnold, Victoria, Bill Lamb, all homebound and caregivers, and peace in all places experiencing conflict.

**Continuing Concerns:** Joe DeMichael, Leon Middleton, Margaret Koon, Mary Rivers, Katie Barone, Chip Schuster, Olivia Spires, Melissa, Grady Lindler

**Military:** Daniel Scruggs, Hilary Compton (Kim Yerrick's niece), Tyler Owens (Kim Yerrick's nephew), Christopher McFarland (Jimmy and Kathy McFarland's Son), James McFarland (Jimmy and Kathy McFarland's Grandson).

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Please stay after church today and help us take down the trees and decorations!

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## Upcoming Events:

**Tuesday, January 7th:**

10:00 am Quilting Group

**Wednesday, January 8th:**

No Bible Study

**Thursday, January 9th:**

6:00 pm Mary Martha

**Sunday, January 12th:**

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Executive Council

Meeting after Worship

11:30 am Confirmation

## Giving to ILC:

Please consider giving to Incarnation Lutheran Church's ministries and projects.



Happy  
New Year

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## Incarnation Young Adults Ministry

Do you have a person in your household between the age of 18-23?  
Scan the QR below and fill out the form.



WHO'S WHO OUTSIDE THE PEWS

## HOLY GUACAMOLE!

CASA LINDA MEXICAN  
RESTAURANT

2009 N BELTLINE BLVD.

JAN. 23 | 6 PM- 8 PM

LADIES' EPIPHANY DROP IN  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH 4-6PM  
AT STACEY MEYER'S HOME  
22 HUSPAH LANE, COLUMBIA,  
SC 29209

BRING APPETIZER  
WINE AND DRINKS WILL BE  
PROVIDED

RSVP TO CHURCH